

Los Angeles County has lagged far behind other jurisdictions in receipt of Federal matching funds. This disparity, we believe, is due in part to the FTA's historical focus on cost-effectiveness as a narrowly-defined measure for prioritizing federal investments. Thus, we enthusiastically welcome the Administration's reopening of discussions on alternative evaluation methods, and hope to offer material suggestions for improving the transit funding process.

We note that there are meetings scheduled by the FTA in San Francisco and in Vancouver, Canada to solicit public comments on this matter. There is no meeting scheduled in Los Angeles, the largest county in the country, and one of the most significant testing markets for new transportation methods over the last century. To allow Los Angeles to "have a voice" in the FTA review process, my office is convening this half-day conference that is open to the public.

Billions of dollars are distributed through this, one of the largest discretionary funding opportunities in the entire Federal Budget. The transit funding future of Los Angeles is at stake. Please join us, speak up during this Federal comment period. Make LA's voice heard!

Please visit my website for additional information:  
<http://ridleythomas.lacounty.gov/Pages/issues/newstarts.htm>  
E-mail [mihernandez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:mihernandez@bos.lacounty.gov) to RSVP.

With hope, .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ridley-Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Supervisor, Second District